

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A local drug delivery apparatus comprising:
a medical device for implantation into a treatment site of a living organism;
at least one agent in therapeutic dosages releasably affixed to the medical device for the treatment of reactions by the living organism caused by the medical device or the implantation thereof; and
a lubricious material for preventing the at least one agent from separating from the medical device prior to implantation of the medical device at the treatment site, the lubricious material being affixed to at least one of the medical device or a delivery system for the medical device.

Please cancel Claim 9 without prejudice.

10. (Amended) The local drug delivery apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the lubricious coating is incorporated onto the medical device.

11. (Amended) The local drug delivery apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the lubricious coating is incorporated into the medical device.

12. (Amended) The local drug delivery apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the lubricious coating is incorporated onto the delivery system for the medical device.

13. (Amended) The local drug delivery apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the lubricious coating comprises a silicone-based material.

Please cancel Claim 14 without prejudice.

15. (Amended) The local drug delivery apparatus according to Claim 52, wherein the water soluble powder is incorporated onto the medical device.

52. (New) A local drug delivery apparatus comprising:

a medical device for implantation into a treatment site of a living organism;

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at least one agent in therapeutic dosages releasably affixed to the medical device for the treatment of reactions by the living organism caused by the medical device or the implantation thereof; and

a water soluble powder for preventing the at least one agent from separating from the medical device prior to implantation of the medical device at the treatment site, the water soluble material being affixed to at least one of the medical device or a delivery system for the medical device.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 3, 2002, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks in this Reply/Amendment. Claims 1, 10-13 and 15 were amended, Claim 52 has been added and Claims 9 and 14 were cancelled, without prejudice, so that Claims 1-52 remain pending with Claims 18-51 subject to restriction. No new matter has been added.